

Trachtenberg concedes defeat in MoCo

Montgomery County council member Duchy Trachtenberg conceded defeat Wednesday, saying she paid a price for standing up against “special interests.”

“I do not regret sounding the alarm about the growing imbalance between the compensation and benefits paid to county employees and the need to fund services for the county’s most vulnerable populations,” she said in a statement. “Montgomery County cannot keep asking its residents to pay higher and higher taxes just to pay for higher government salaries while services decline.”

She was elected four years ago with the support of unions representing firefighters and other public employees, but later angered them by seeking to scale back cost-of-living increases. Public employees then put her on a “Wanted” poster. This year, some picketed her while she campaigned.

“It’s a resounding win,” said challenger Hans Riemer. “I think I made a case to the voters that I’m someone that they can count on in very difficult times to make decisions that are guided by strong progressive values.”

-- *Michael Laris*